Heraclitus Ridens:

AT

A Dialogue between Jeſt and Earneſt, concerning the Times.

Tueſday, April the 18th. 1682.

Jeſt. TRAW, Traw, Traw; Here is the great Wonder of the World, the Rarity of Rarities, far excelling *Jacob Hall* or the Elephant. Step in immediately and take your Places.

Earn. So, ſo, you are excerciſing your Parts in the *Jack Pudding*-way, and you'l be told ſo by the Whigs, be ſure; but what's the reaſon of this noiſe you make?

Jeſt. Only I have a ſtrange Monſter here, and I was trying how I could recommend it to the Publick upon Occaſion.

Earn. What is it? Go on in the loud Tone I found you in, if you pleaſe.

Jeſt. O that I had but the Voice of that *Preſbyterian* Parſon (I think 'twas one of the *Vincents*) that would with its vehemence ſweep the Cobwebs off the Windows where he preach'd; a Church-ſearching Voice. That would do my buſineſs.

Earn. Prethee do as well as you can; if you do it to the ſatisfaction of the *Mobile*, you may get Preferment, as you know, little *Harry* has done, who wrote *Poor-Robins Intelligence* for the Edification of the men of *Smithfield*, and upon his ſucceſs in thoſe performances, is now made one of the Secretaries to the Prince of *Whigland*. Speak out in the behalf of your Monſter.

Jeſt. Gentlemen, in this Booth here's the *Dutch* Painters *Cat-a-mountain* that has Legs all round him; he has been thrown off *White-Hall*, *Weſtminſter-Hall* and all the Churches in Town, without receiving any hurt, and is yet able to clamber to the top of the higheſt Pole upon St. *Stephen*'s Chappel: He ſhall in the twinkling of an Eye transform himſelf into an old wither'd wrigling Serpent, ſprung of the very ſeed of that which occaſion'd the firſt Rebellion of Mankind in *Adam*, and does far out-go his Sire in that way? beſide, he is near a-kin to St. *George*'s Dragon, being an inveterate Enemy to any thing that's Tutelar of this Nation. Do but turn your ſelf round, and this damn'd old Serpent ſhall be chang'd into a ſquinting brindle Ape that ſhall act the Patriot and the Saint to the admiration of all men, even to the deceiving of many unwary Spectators. And after all this, do but ſay *Parliament*, *Law*, *Prerogative*, or one or two other conjuring words, and he's immediately chang'd into a Spigot and Faucet that continually runs with a certain rancorous matter with which the Furies and Harpyes have of late always imp'd their Wings.

Earn. This is ſuch a Monſter you can't fail of Cuſtomers. But have you nothing elſe?

Jeſt. Yes, I have a young thing which looks like the Child of my Monſter. 'Tis a Pamphlet entitled *A Modeſt Account of the Poſture of Affairs in* England, *with particular reference to the Earl of* Shaftsbury's *Caſe, and a Vindication of him*, &c.

Earn. 'Tis a Pamphlet I have ſeen; but what Monſtroſity do you find in't, pray?

Jeſt. I'le tell you only of one thing in't, and if your ſelf don't prove it the greateſt Prodigy either of Impudence or Ignorance that ever diſſented, petition'd or rebell'd, I'le keep you Company no longer.

Earn. Speak thy mind.

Jeſt. Do but look in his ſecond page; *If you conſider* (ſays he) *with what Submiſſion and Loyalty they* [the Diſſenting Proteſtants] *have carried themſelves* [ſince His Majeſties Reſtauration] *you will not find a parallel Inſtance.*

Earn. Your Monſter is very much given either to leaſing or jeering, or both; for no man can ſay this ſeriouſly and truly, that has obſerv'd the carriage of the Whigs in the mention'd time, wherein I'le undertake to prove they have been the Authors of at leaſt five treaſonous Plots upon the Government.

Jeſt. The proof of that will, I think, ſuperſede the neceſſity of our former undertaking to recount the ſeveral Whig-Plots ſince *Calviniſm* obtain'd in the World. Therefore pray let's hear 'em.

Earn. I'le tell you; the King was no ſooner return'd and not yet Crown'd, when a Party of Diſſenting Proteſtants under *Venner* the Wine-Cooper declared for King *Jeſus*, and out of their abundant Loyalty kill'd innocent Perſons for ſaying they were *for God and King* Charles, and when they were executed for their Treaſon, they died, calling down Vengeance from Heaven upon the King, the Judges and the City of *London*. The particulars of this firſt Diſſenters Plot every body can tell you, and therefore I'le not inſiſt upon it.

Jeſt. Or if any one want information concern-

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ing it, let him ſtep to *Amſterdam* Coffee-Houſe. Well, there's one inſtance of the *Diſſenters Submiſſion and Loyalty* which your Author ſpeaks of, What's next?

Earn. Theſe men lay not quiet two years, but another Plot was hatch'd by our Loyal Diſſenters, and a Model prepared in lieu of the old Tory-way of Government in caſe their Project ſhould have ſucceſs; the Principal of them [by name *Philips*, *TONGUE*, *Gibs* and *Stubs*] were executed, and confeſſed at their deaths at leaſt a concurrence in the Deſign, though denied themſelves partakers in the Contrivance of it. *This Plot* (ſays my Author) *was againſt the Life of the King, the Duke of York*, &c. *and generally the Biſhops, Nobility, Gentry and Commonalty that were not of their Opinions and aſſiſted them not.*

Jeſt. Your Author was continued by one *J. Philips* the ſuppoſed Writer of *the Kings Evidence juſtified*, and ſome other Whig ſtuff, which however wretchedly ſilly, are priz'd very much by the Party, upon the ſcore of his having been brought up at the feet of that great *Gamaliel*, *John Milton*; and therefore for your next Plot, pray make uſe of his Continuation.

Earn. I intend ſo to do. My next, which is my third, Whiggiſh Plot was diſcover'd in the year 1663. *Their pretences were* (ſays that Author) *to have been the oppoſal of Exciſe, Subſidies*, &c. *to re-eſtabliſh a Goſpel-Magiſtracy and Miniſtry, to reſtore the Long-Parliament; and laſtly, to curb the Gentry, Clergy, and Lawyers.* For this, of ſeventeen which were arraign'd, fifteen (chiefly upon the Evidence of *Joſhua* and *Timothy Crowder* and Young *OATS*'s,) were found guilty, the principal Traitor being one Captain *OATES* who commanded at the Inſurrection; the reſt were generally either Preachers of Sects or old Parliament Soldiers.

Jeſt. Oats an Evidence and *Oats* a Traitor at the ſame time?

Earn. Yes, but they were three ſeveral men. But to go on; Againſt the day of Riſing they had prepar'd a Whig-Treatiſe (perhaps like the Pamphlets, *No Proteſtant Plot*, or the *Appeal from Countrey to City*) wherein after the Author had clamour'd bitterly and maliciouſly both at the King, Royal Family and Government, he invites to a Rebellion in theſe words, *If there be any Town, City or County in the three Nations, that will begin this Righteous and Glorious Work* [referring to the word *Revolt* in the fore-going Clauſe] *They may be aſſur'd*, &c. There's a Third inſtance of Diſſenters Loyalty.

Jeſt. Now for your fourth.

Earn. My fourth has been of late made publick by a better hand, *Obſ.* N. 14 but becauſe 'tis good to have them all in order, I'le give you a ſhort Account of it. *At the Seſſions in the* Old Baily, April 26. 1666. *Several Officers or Soldiers in the late Rebellion were Indited for Conſpiring the Death of his Majeſty, and the Overthrow of the Government; having laid their Plot and Contrivance for the Surprizal of the* Tower, *the Killing his Grace the* Lord General, *Sir* John Robinſon *Lieutenant of his Majeſties* Tower *of* London, *and Sir* Richard Brown; *and then to have declared for an equal diviſion of Land*, &c. *The better to effect this Helliſh Deſign, the City was to have been fired, and the* Portcullis *to have been let down, to keep out all Aſſiſtance; the* Horſe-Guard *to have been ſurpriz'd in the Inns where they were Quartered; ſeveral Oſtlers having been gained for that purpoſe. The third of* September *was pitch'd on for the attempt, as being found by* Lilly's Almanack, *and a Scheme erected for that purpoſe, to be a Lucky Day, a Planet then Ruling which Prognoſticated the Downfall of Monarchy. The Evidence againſt the Perſons was full and clear, and they accordingly found guilty of High Treaſon, and Executed on the* 30. *of the ſame Month.* And that part of this Whiggiſh Deſign that was level'd at the City of *London* had its effect afterward, as 'tis ſaid ſome of theſe Malefactors threatned it ſhould, though they were executed.

Jeſt. You need not enlarge upon this, becauſe 'tis better done already; beſides, prethee have a care of the Monument, you know what that ſays. But to your fifth and laſt.

Earn. I have two Plots more, but you ſhall have the *Scotch* Inſurrection at *Bothwel-Bridg*, into the Bargain, unleſs you had rather ſuppoſe it a branch of ours, which conſidering the juncture of time, I am apt to believe. And upon reading our True Proteſtant *Aſſociation* (which I account for the laſt Whiggiſh Plot) I find it to be ſo adapted to the humour of that violent People, as well as to all the other crawling broods of Sectaries, that many more underſtanding Perſons than my ſelf may perchance be of my mind.

Jeſt. And now you think you have made out that the *Submiſſion and Loyalty of the Diſſenters*, with which this Author brags, has not been ſo very extraordinary, they having been all along moſt indefatigable Oppoſers and Diſturbers of the eſtabliſh'd Government.

Earn. The Rebellious Attempts I have recounted are only thoſe that have been diſcover'd and come to publick knowledg, how many have eſcap'd Juſtice and my Memory, I know not.

Jeſt. I have not yet ask'd you how his Majeſties Return from *New-Market* was congratulated by the City-Whigs? Did they rejoyce as heartily as upon the Feaſt of St, *Ignoramus* or *the nineteen Conſciences?*

Earn. I have heard of the Feaſt of St. *Urſula* and the 11000 Virgins, but I gueſs what you mean: Not one Bonfire, that I can hear of, would burn upon the ſame ground where thoſe others were kindled. In *Alderſgateſtreet*, where there were eight or ten Bonfires upon the great day you ſpoke of, a worthy Gentleman caus'd one to be made upon the Kings return, but that was all; your Salamander of Loyalty kept the Neighbourhood cool in their Love to their Prince.

Jeſt. And this, they brag, ſhews their Numbers.

Earn. Their Zeal rather; but if they are numerous and zealous, 'tis high time they were cruſh'd, becauſe, as I have prov'd from their practices, they never were nor can be good Subjects.

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